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CITIES AND TOWNS TO GET FREE ACCESS TO MAPPING TOOL
THROUGH EOEA's GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

Cities and towns in Massachusetts will soon have an important mapping tool in their hands thanks to a cooperative effort involving the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), the Massachusetts Highway Department, and the Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board.

As a result of this collaboration, the Commonwealth has procured an enterprise license for the NAVTEQ geo-coding database. This license allows all political subdivisions of the Commonwealth – including boards, commissions and municipalities – to access this system.

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary of EOEA, announced that the Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS) in EOEA will act as the distributor. All eligible organizations that have a Geographic Information System (GIS) to support its use can utilize the database for locating and mapping addresses anywhere in the state.

"It is estimated that over 80% of the data managed by governments has an address component, so this capability has the potential to greatly facilitate improvements in service delivery and overall government efficiencies for agencies with GIS software," Pritchard said.

The NAVTEQ data will allow users with a GIS to convert a data file of addresses (crime incidents, seniors, school children, etc.) into a map of estimated point locations. This map can be used with other geographic information (police stations, senior services, schools, etc.) for analysis and decision support. Interested municipalities can contact the MassGIS office for more information.

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